

His MAJESTY's most Gracious LETTER
To the PARLIAMENT of SCOTLAND.
WILLIAM R.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE continuance of the War obliging Us to call you together at this time, for your own Safety and Security, as well as for Our Service, and hindering us to be present in Person: We have appointed Our Right Trustee, and Right well beloved Cousin and Counsellor, *JOHN* Earl of *Tullibardine* to be Our Commissioner, for Representing Our Person and Authority in this Session of Parliament. The knowledge We have of his Capacity, as well as of his zealous Affection, and firm Fidelity to Our Person and Government, will certainly render him Acceptable. We have fully instructed him in all that may Concern the Good and Welfare of that Our ancient Kingdom, and the Interest of Our Service; And therefore you are to give him entire Trust and Credit. He is to Ask nothing of you in Our Name, but what your own Safety makes necessary.

The Delivery that *God Almighty* lately gave Us, from that Imminent Danger to which both Our Person and Kingdoms were Exposed, by the Crafty and Bloody Designs of Our Enemies, is fresh in your Remembrance, and Calls for Our Joint Care and Providence for the future.

The Supplies Granted in the last Session of Parliament, are now almost expired; And you also know how much the Funds thereto appointed, are sunk below Expectation.

The Continuing of the Forces, the Buying of Arms and Ammunition, the Repairing of Forts and Garisons, and the Provisions for your Frigats, being all for your own Defence, with the other Charges and Contingencies of the Governmena, will readily perswade you to give what is Needful, for those Ends. And that in the most effectual and easy manner, Recruits during the War must also be had; which We hope you will provide in such ways as may best prevent Abuses.

We have Impowred Our Commissioner, to give Our Royal Assent to such Laws as shall be judged necessary, for the better Securing to Our Subjects their Rights and Properties.

It hath been, and shall still be Our Royal Care, to Preserve you in Peace and Safety, and to Promote your Welfare and Prosperity: And therefore We expect you will Treat and Conclude all Matters, with that Prudence, Calmness and Concord, as will be most to Our Satisfaction, and no less to your own Honour and Advantage; And so We bid you heartily Farewell. *Given at Our Court at Loo the 28 August 1696. And of Our Reign the Eighth Year.*

The SPEECH of JOHN Earl of Tullibardine, His Majesties High Commissioner to the Parhament of SCOTLAND, On Tuesday the Eighth of September, 1696.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

WE enjoy the Unvaluable Blessing of a King, who is not only of the same Religion with Us, but who daily exposes himself to the greatest Dangers for its Defence and Our Safety; all good Men had a just Sense of this, on the happy Discovery of the late horrid Design of Assassination and Invasion, and I wish, We may show Our Gratitude to God as we ought for that Delivery; and in the next place, that you chearfully imbrace this Opportunity of giving new Marks of Your Duty to the King, Who, if He should require any thing from You for his own particular Uses, I am perswaded this Parliament would readily agree to it, but His Majesty desires nothing from You, but that You take this occasion to do every thing, that's necessary for Your Own and the Kingdoms Safety, in Preserving all that's dear to Us from His and Our Enemies.

I know You are so fully convinced of the Necessity there is of Supplies, for the Support of the Government and Maintenance of the Standing Forces, that I need not make Use of Arguments: Therefore I shall only mention what is necessary to be provided, and is expected from you by the King.

The Fonds of the last Supplies are fallen so short, that the Troops are already much in Arrear, and the late Designs against Us made it remarkable, how ill We were provided of Arms and Ammunition, and that the Garisons and Forts are much out of Repair.

What was Appointed for Buying and Maintaining of Ships to Guard Our Coasts, is also come to much less than was imagined.

What you give for these Ends, the King does expect will be as large as you can, and in the most Equal and Easy Manner for the Country, and when the Recruits are wanted for Our Troops Abroad, that You take Care they be ordered with as little Expence and Trouble as can be.

It is Expected You will take the most Effectual Method for putting the Kingdom in a posture of Defence, which may be a Means for Discouraging Our Enemies from forming Designs to disturb Our present Quiet and Happiness.

I am Instructed to Pass Acts for Suppressing of Profanity, and for Curbing of Vice: And it is expected, what you do in this, may be made Effectual for obtaining the Ends, and that they be afterwards Impartially put in Execution by those of the Government. And I must tell you, my Lords and Gentlemen, That your Sincere Endeavours and Example in this, will very much recommend you to Our King.

I am Allowed by His Majesty to assure you, that He is Resolved to Maintain Presbyterian Government in the Church of Scotland; And that it will be very acceptable to Him, that Difference amongst Church-Men be Composed: And he particularly recommends Moderation in those Matters.

I am Allowed to give Encouragement to Universities and Schools, which last, are wanting in too many Places, especially in the Highlands.

I am

I am also Impow'ed to Consent to such Laws, as shall be necessary for Securing your Rights and Properties.

This Season of the Year, in which the Kings other Affairs hath Oblig'd Him to Call you, does require your Diligence in putting an End to the Affairs before you, as soon as possible you can: And I am glad to have ground to Hope, you will manage them with that Unanimity and Concord, which the King hath so often Recommended to you.

I shall not Trouble you with what Concerns my self, I am very Sensible of my Unfitness for the Weighty and Honourable Charge I bear: I can only say, That I Earnestly Desire, to be Instrumental in doing Service to my King and Country, and am very Confident of your Hearty Concurrence.

The SPEECH of PATRICK Lord Polwarth, Lord High Chancellor of Scotland. At the opening of the Sixth Session of the Parliament of Scotland. On Tuesday the 8th of Sept. 1696.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your being again Call'd together, while our Sovereign Lord the King, is Abroad beyond Sea, is a new Proof of His Majesties great Confidence in you, which no doubt, will be a strong Obligation upon you, to Acquit your selves as Dutifully as if His Majesty were present with you:

This is our first Meeting, since it pleas'd the Almighty to give us a great Deliverance, by Discovering and Defeating the late Execrable and Hellish Plot, and Conspiracy, for Assassinating our King, and invading his Kingdoms:

That Signal Mercy of His Majesties Preservation, cannot but Enlarge our Hearts, in Thankfulness to GOD, in Love to our King, and in Resolution and Vigilancy against His Enemies:

It is an Inestimable Blessing, that GOD has set over us, and preserves unto us, a King not only Professing the Reformed Religion, but who also is so Pious in the Practice, and so Zealous in the Defence of it:

A King, who has given to this Nation many Convincing Demonstrations of His peculiar Favour towards it; And among others, that of Establishing Presbyterian Government in this Church, and giving us Assurance that He will Maintain it: Let Our Prudence, Charity, and Moderation, ever Encourage Him to do it.

His Majesty and His Kingdoms, have very Powerful Enemies, who with Mighty Armies, do what they can to continue the War: While they are so Diligent, we are not to be Remiss nor Secure.

'Tis true, this War is the greatest that ever was in Europe, and wherein we are necessarily Engag'd, is, by the Blessing of GOD, upon the Courage, and Conduct of our King, removed to such a Distance; as that We the Subjects know little of it, but by the News we hear: We live at Home, free from the Calamities which Afflict the Seat of a War; but at the same time, our King, our Deliverer Travels, and Watches by Day and by Night, Traverses Sea and Land, Exposes his precious Life to Dangers, that we may be in Safety, and that we may be at Ease.

We are then to Consider seriously what Stedable Service we can do to His Majesty, in a Sense of our Duty and Gratitude; and to set about it, with all Diligence and Unanimity.

The Commissioner's Grace has very suitably to his Character of Fidelity to the King, and Love to his Country, in His Majesties Name Recommended to you Matters which highly concern the King's Service, and the Countries Interest, (the same thing in different Terms) so that I need to say little.

But you know, there is a Necessity to Establish a Fund sufficient for paying the Forces kept in the Country, and for Maintaining the Forts and Castles in a fit Condition.

And because, for sparing the Kingdoms Expence, His Majesty does not keep so many Troops here, as might be requisite for our Defence, in case any considerable Attempt from Abroad were made upon the Land. It is as necessary, that the Country be put in some better Posture, and be better provided of Arms and Ammunition.

The Settling an Effectual Method for Recruiting the Troops of this Nation which are Abroad, is one good mean to keep the War at the distance it is; and nothing can more Encourage our Men to go Common Soldiers, than that a good course be laid down, whereby they who return disabled from the Service, may be comfortably Maintained.

The Trade of the Nation doth likewise require your Care of Maintaining Frigats for Guarding your Coasts, and Convoying your Merchants.

It is not to be doubted, but you will gain time, every Consideration pressing you to it, and fall upon suitable Methods, to answer His Majesty's Expectation in these things; for you see how willing His Majesty is to Assent to such Laws, as are needful for securing your Rights and Properties; for Encouraging Piety and Vertue; for suppressing Vice and Profanity; for Educating your Youth, in Knowledge and Learning: And indeed, to do for you, whatever doth tend to your Prosperity and Happiness.

Be pleas'd to turn your Thoughts to His Majesty's other Kingdoms, in the same Bottom with this; and consider the English, that Wife, Magnanimous, and Powerful Nation, how Liberally, and Courageously they have Acted, in Maintaining the Common Cause, take an Encouragement of them, and let your Actings be of Encouragement to them.

What you do, my Lords, and Gentlemen, in this your High Capacity, is usually Exprest by a very becoming Name, it is call'd the King's Service, which to speak it plainly, you are Consulting, and Acting for your Selves; you Reap the Fruit; the Advantage is yours:

How great a Happiness is it, that what we do for our Selves, has such a Vein of Love, and Fidelity to our King; incorporated with it, as makes it to Merit the Title of His Majesties Service: And that our King as a Father of the Country, is graciously pleas'd to Consider the Good we do for our Selves, as the best Service we can do to him: May it ever be thus, let it never fail on our Part, that as our King has been a Blessing from Heaven to us, so his Majesty may have Reason to think, that His Loving and Dutiful Subjects are the like to Him.

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